



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VISITS W&M LABS AT THE ARC

December of 2006 was one of the busiest months of the year. One of the most exciting events was the visit by Paula Neely and Steve Archer on the 20th of December. Paula represents National Geographic, and Steve is an archaeobotanist for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a W&M faculty member. They came to use our lab's equipment, the HiROX optical microscope, to characterize some amazing artifacts discovered in a Jamestown well, which, after serving as the fort's water supply seemed to have become some what of a garbage can. Luckily for researchers, it was a great environment for preserving these seeds.



Left picture:
Steve Archer
(left) and Paula
Neely (right)
observe Natalie
Percy (right
picture, right),
while she is
obtaining the
images.



Details of this archeological discovery were widely published. Those publications were illustrated with the images, obtained in our lab, by means of the HiROX microscope. Below are two links to the web sites dedicated to this discovery:

http://historicjamestowne.org/news/tobacco_seed.php

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/01/070112-jamestown_2.html

TOBACCO SEED FROM THE WELL (350X)



Natalie and Steve working together on the HiROX microscope in order to obtain high quality images

